

# Resolution

No. 20-64

## RECOGNIZING EARTH DAY'S 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY AND PLEDGING TO CONTINUE MAUI COUNTY'S EFFORTS TO BUILD UPON THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, Earth Day was first celebrated on April 22, 1970, mobilizing more than 20 million Americans from coast to coast, making it the largest grassroots citizen action event of its time; and

WHEREAS, Earth Day was created by its founder, Gaylord Nelson, to unite and engage all communities by raising awareness and demanding basic environmental protections for our planet while committing to leave a healthier world for future generations; and

WHEREAS, after witnessing the massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California, in 1969, Nelson was inspired by the student-led anti-war movement and selected April 22<sup>nd</sup> to become Earth Day because that date fell between spring break and final exams and increased the likelihood that students would be available to give voice to the cause; and

WHEREAS, groups that had previously fought individually against oil spills, polluting factories and power plants, raw sewage, toxic dumps, pesticides, freeways, the loss of wilderness, and the extinction of wildlife united on Earth Day around these shared common values; and

WHEREAS, Earth Day 1970 also achieved a rare political alignment, enlisting support from Republicans and Democrats, rich and poor, urban dwellers and farmers, and business and labor leaders; and

WHEREAS, Earth Day is widely credited with launching the modern environmental movement and leading to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency, and passage of the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and Endangered Species Act by the end of 1970; and

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WHEREAS, new and continuing challenges, including climate change, have reinforced the need for environmental protection and continued cooperation between countries and communities; and

WHEREAS, in the face of many challenges, including well-funded opposition by lobbyists for polluting industries, Earth Day has prevailed and is widely recognized as the largest secular observance in the world; and

WHEREAS, Earth Day is observed by over one billion people from across the globe each year as a day to provoke environmental action and policy and evolve human behavior into a more sustainable existence; and

WHEREAS, many schools, faith groups, artists, musicians, and an array of environmental, science, and other nonprofit organizations and stakeholders—notably including The Sierra Club of Hawai'i, which celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year—are joining forces in this global environmental movement; and

WHEREAS, Earth Day encourages people to engage in protection, restoration, and cleanup projects, including planting trees, conserving water and energy, removing litter, protecting coral reefs, reducing carbon footprints, and taking other environmentally responsible actions; and

WHEREAS, the Lā Ho'oulu Pae Moku — ReTree Hawaii campaign has been educating the public about the threats of climate change and the benefits of trees and other plants in sequestering carbon, leading up to a day of statewide tree planting on October 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, April 22, 2020, marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day, reminding us that we must not pass on to future generations a world beyond repair; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That it recognizes April 22, 2020, as the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Earth Day; and
2. That it encourages the people of the County of Maui to recognize and address environmental challenges by working

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together and honoring the responsibility to steward the land, water, and air; and

3. That the County of Maui continues to build upon the Paris Climate Agreement and support the efforts to ensure our islands will be protected and enjoyed by generations to come, as previously stated in Resolution 19-98; and
4. That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to The Sierra Club of Hawai'i; the Maui Chapter — the Surfrider Foundation; Maui Nui Marine Resource Council; 350Hawaii.org Maui Nui Chapter; the Honorable David Ige, Governor, State of Hawai'i; the Honorable Scott K. Saiki, Speaker, Hawai'i State House of Representatives; the Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi, President, Hawai'i State Senate; and the Honorable Michael P. Victorino, Mayor, County of Maui.

# COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793

## CERTIFICATION OF ADOPTION

It is HEREBY CERTIFIED that RESOLUTION NO. 20-64 was adopted by the Council of the County of Maui, State of Hawaii, on the 17th day of April, 2020, by the following vote:

MEMBERS	Alice L. LEE Chair	Keani N. W. RAWLINS- FERNANDEZ Vice-Chair	G. Riki HOKAMA	Natalie A. KAMA	Kelly T. KING	Michael J. MOLINA	Tamara A. M. PALTIN	Shane M. SINENCI	Yuki Lei K. SUGIMURA
ROLL CALL	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye



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COUNTY CLERK